

Message Text

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ACTION PPTE-00

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5239
INFO AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CPAS, CASC
SUBJ: DOCUMENTARY REQUIREMENTS FOR ENTRY OF US CITIZENS
INTO NICARAGUA

REF: (A) 74 MANAGUA 0865, (B) 74 STATE 056953

1. REFTELS REPORTED STRICTER ENFORCEMENT BY NICARAGUA OF
PASSPORT AND VISA REQUIREMENTS FOR USCS ENTERING BY LAND
AND DEPARTMENT'S EFFORTS TO DISSEMINATE THIS INFORMATION.

2. PROBLEM STILL EXISTS WITH NUMBERS OF USCS BEING DENIED
ENTRY AT NICARAGUAN BORDER FOR LACK OF PASSPORTS AND
VISA AND APPLYING FOR PASSPORT AT TEGUCIGALPA, FREQUENTLY
WITHOUT SUFFICIENT IDENTIFICATION OR EVIDENCE OF CITIZEN-
SHIP TO ISSUE.

3. CITIZENS OFTEN, CREDIBLY, REPORT HAVING BEEN MIS-
INFORMED BY NICARAGUAN CONSULAR OFFICES OR TRAVEL ORGANI-
ZATIONS PARTICULARLY AAA, THAT TOURIST CARD AVAILABLE AT
BORDER. (TOURIST CARDS ARE AVAILABLE FOR AIR TRAVELERS
AND REQUIRE ONLY PROOF OF CITIZENSHIP, NOT PASSPORT).
UNFORTUNATELY THIS IS NOT TRUE. HONDURAS IS THE FURTHEST
SOUTH USCS CAN TRAVEL BY LAND IN CENTRAL AMERICA WITHOUT
PASSPORT.

4. PROBLEM ALSO EXISTS WITH MILITARY PERSONNEL ON WAY TO
ASSIGNMENT IN CANAL ZONE WHO HAVE NOT BEEN ADVISED NECESSITY
OF VISA. PROBLEM OFTEN ACUTE DURING DECEMBER AND SUMMER MONTHS
WITH PERSONNEL ON LEAVE WHO ARE RETURNING CZ WITH NEWLY
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PURCHASED CAR. USMILGP HERE AT CONSOFFS REQUEST ADVISING US

SOUTH COM OF PROBLEM.

5. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S EFFORTS TO AGAIN
DISSEMINATE INFORMATION ON NEED FOR PASSPORT AND VISA TO
APPROPRIATE TRAVEL ORGANIZATIONS, PARTICULARLY AAA, AND TO
DOD. DEPARTMENT MAY ALSO WISH ACQUAINT NICARAGUAN EMBASSY OF
PROBLEM AND REQUEST ASSISTANCE FROM THEIR CONSULAR OFFICES IN
PROVIDING CORRECT INFORMATION TO TOURISTS TRAVELING TO OR
TRANSITING NICARAGUA BY LAND.
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